



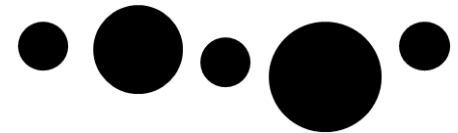
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# ***Double Take Webinar Series***

“When Was This Photograph Taken?”

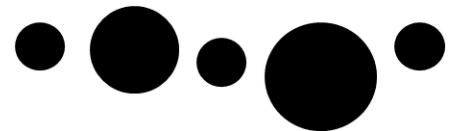
Welcome! We'll get started at 4PM ET.



Welcome!

Use the chat box to introduce yourselves.  
Let us know:

- **Your first name**
- **Where you're joining us from**
- **Be sure to select *All Panelists and Attendees* in the chat.**





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**We're glad you're with us (virtually)!**



**"The Library of Congress Thomas Jefferson Building"**  
*(photograph by Shawn Miller, Library of Congress photographer)*

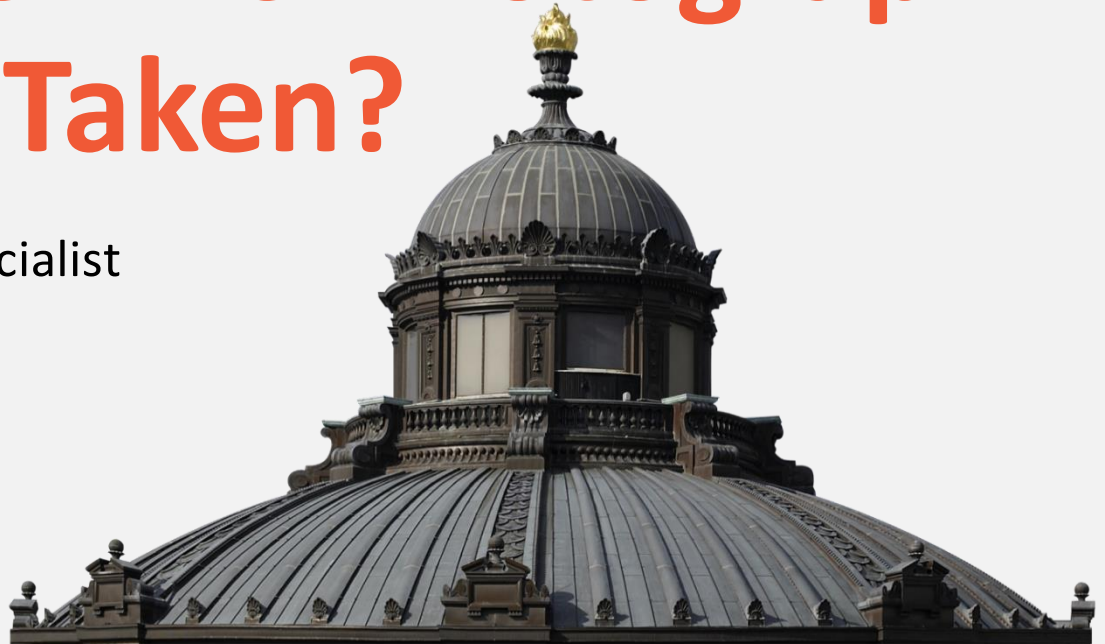


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March 25, 2021

# Double Take: When Was This Photograph Taken?

Kristi Finefield, Reference Specialist  
Prints & Photographs Division  
Library of Congress





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**How do you know when a  
photograph was taken?**

# Sources for Date Information :

- Copyright or publication date
- Date written on object (photo, negative)
- In accompanying logbook, caption card file
- Event taking place in the photo

# How could we date this photo?





# Date written on the photo



Harding arrives. Photo by Bain News Service, [1921 April 19].

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/ggbain.32252>



# Event taking place in the photo



[View Larger](#)



[JPEG \(55kb\)](#) | [JPEG \(136kb\)](#) | [TIFF \(15.0mb\)](#)

digital file from original neg.  
<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/ggbain.32252>

## Related

- [Browse neighboring items by call number.](#)  
Collection: [Bain Collection](#)

## Harding arrives

About This Item

Obtaining Copies

Access to Original

**Title:** Harding arrives

**Creator(s):** [Bain News Service](#), publisher

**Date Created/Published:** [19 April 1921]

**Medium:** 1 negative : glass ; 5 x 7 in. or smaller.

**Summary:** Photo shows the motorcade of President Harding arriving at the dedication of the Simon Bolivar statue at Bolivar Hill, Central Park, New York City, on April 19, 1921. The statue was made by Sally James Farnham (1876-1943). (Source: Flickr Commons project, 2018)

**Reproduction Number:** LC-DIG-ggbain-32252 (digital file from original negative)

**Rights Advisory:** No known restrictions on publication. For more information, see George Grantham Bain Collection - Rights and Restrictions Information  
[https://www.loc.gov/rr/print/res/274\\_bain.html](https://www.loc.gov/rr/print/res/274_bain.html)

**Call Number:** LC-B2- 5442-15 [P&P]

**Repository:** Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pp.print>

## Notes:

- Title from data provided by the Bain News Service on the negatives or caption cards.
- Forms part of: George Grantham Bain Collection (Library of Congress).

## More Sources of Date Information:

- Life dates of the sitter, in a portrait photograph
- Photographic process
- Textual research about the photo, photographer, event, etc., in newspapers, publications, letters

# How could we date this photo?



[Abraham Lincoln, Congressman-elect from Illinois. Three-quarter length portrait, seated, facing front] Daguerreotype by Nicholas H. Shepherd, 1846 or 1847. <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/ppmsca.53842>


# Life dates of the sitter



Abraham Lincoln. President of the United States, assassinated April 14th 1865 / engraved and published by John C. McRae, 105 Cedar St. New York, [1865?]. <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pga.07619>



# Photographic process


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## Popular Photographic Print Processes: Daguerreotypes

**Dates in general use:** ca. 1839-1860



**Description:** The daguerreotype image is formed directly on a silver plated copper plate which was made light sensitive with a surface coating of iodine vapors. It is a direct-positive process, made without a negative. It has a highly reflective surface that sometimes makes it difficult to see the image. The image is reversed - letters will appear backwards unless a special lens or prism is used to take the picture. Daguerreotypes are commonly found in leather or thermoplastic cases. Typical dimensions range from the sixteenth plate (1-3/8 x 1-5/8 inches) to whole plate (6-1/2 x 8-1/2 inches). Portraits are the most common subject matter



Abraham Bogardus, photographer.  
*[Occupational portrait of a tinworker (?)]*.  
Daguerreotype, between 1851 and 1860.  
[LC-USZC4-3945](#)

Popular Photographic Print Processes Represented in the Prints and Photographs Division: [https://www.loc.gov/rr/print/coll/589\\_intro.html](https://www.loc.gov/rr/print/coll/589_intro.html)

# Textual research



[View Larger](#)

[JPEG \(153kb\)](#) | [JPEG \(372kb\)](#) | [TIFF \(116.2mb\)](#)

digital file from original photo  
<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/ppmsca.53842>



[Abraham Lincoln, Congressman-elect from Illinois. Three-quarter length portrait, seated, facing front]

About This Item

Obtaining Copies

Access to Original

**Title:** [Abraham Lincoln, Congressman-elect from Illinois. Three-quarter length portrait, seated, facing front]

**Creator(s):** [Shepherd, Nicholas H.](#), photographer

**Date Created/Published:** [Springfield, Ill., 1846 or 1847]

**Medium:** 1 photograph : quarter plate daguerreotype ; plate 12 x 9.5 cm.

**Summary:** This daguerreotype is the earliest-known photograph of Abraham Lincoln, taken at age 37 when he was a frontier lawyer in Springfield and Congressman-elect from Illinois. (Source: Ostendorf, p. 4)

**Reproduction Number:** LC-DIG-ppmsca-53842 (digital file from original photo) LC-USZC4-2439 (color film copy transparency post-1992) LC-USZ6-2095 (b&w film copy neg. post-1992) LC-USZ6-299 (b&w film copy neg. pre-1992, after 1959 cleaning and restoration) LC-USZ62-12457 (b&w film copy neg. pre-1992, after 1959 cleaning and restoration, copy of retouched print) LC-USZ62-4377 (b&w film copy neg. made from old photographic print)

**Rights Advisory:** No known restrictions on publication.

**Access Advisory:** Restricted access. Please use digital image or other reference copy. Original photo is too fragile to serve.

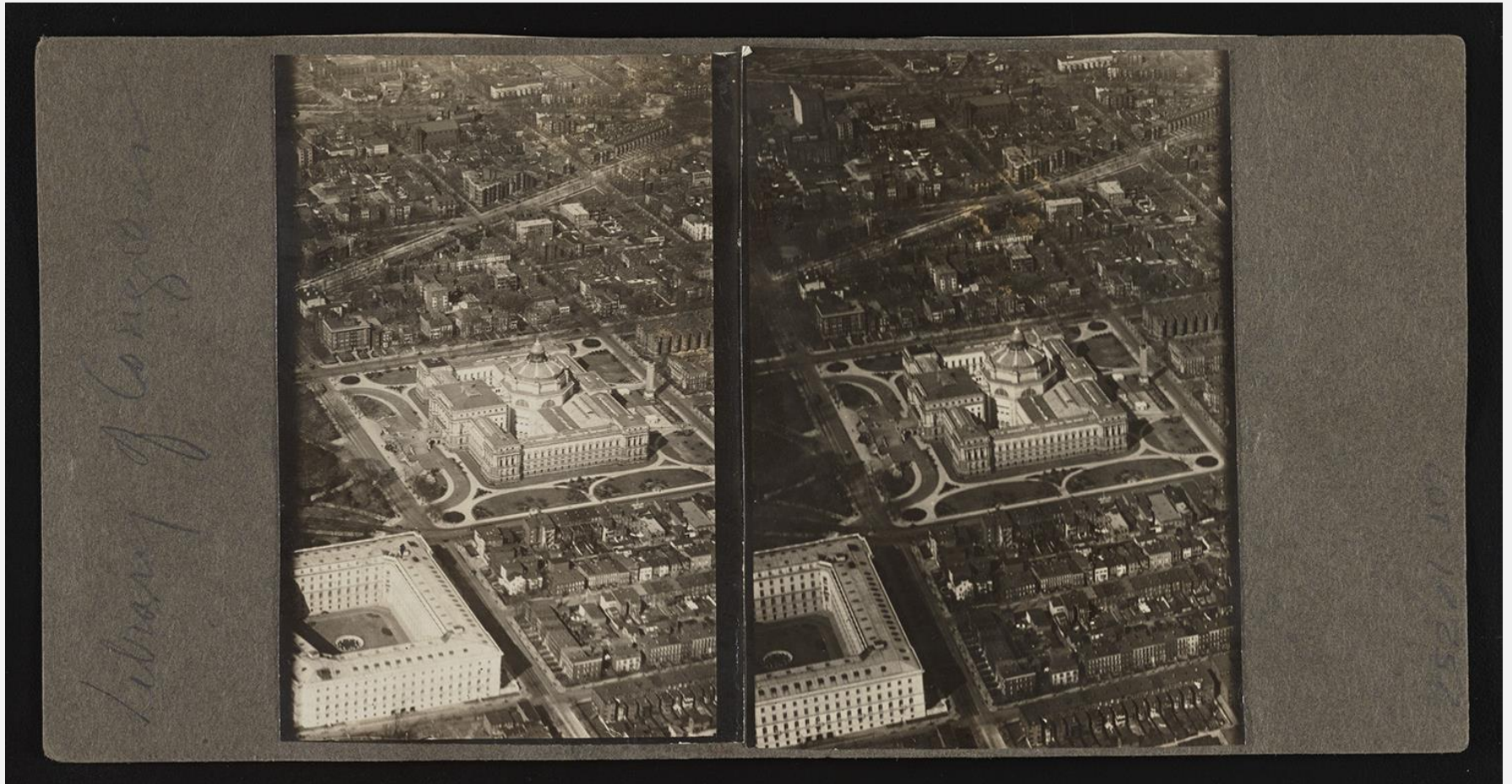
Abraham Lincoln, Congressman-elect from Illinois. Three-quarter length portrait, seated, facing front]  
Daguerreotype by Nicholas H. Shepherd, 1846 or 1847. <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/ppmsca.53842>

# Even More Sources of Date Information:

- Technology present: transportation, street furniture
- Clothing & hair styles
- Buildings & other landmarks present or missing



# How could we date this photo?



# Look Closely

- Look closely, front and back.
- Zoom in on details, if digital.
- Take note of unusual features.
- Take note of what's present and what's missing.





# Library of Congress on Capitol Hill

Jefferson  
Building:  
Opened  
November  
1897



Adams  
Building:  
Completed  
Jan 1933

Madison  
Building:  
Construction  
began 1971

# Library of Congress on Capitol Hill

Jefferson  
Building

Adams  
Building

Madison  
Building



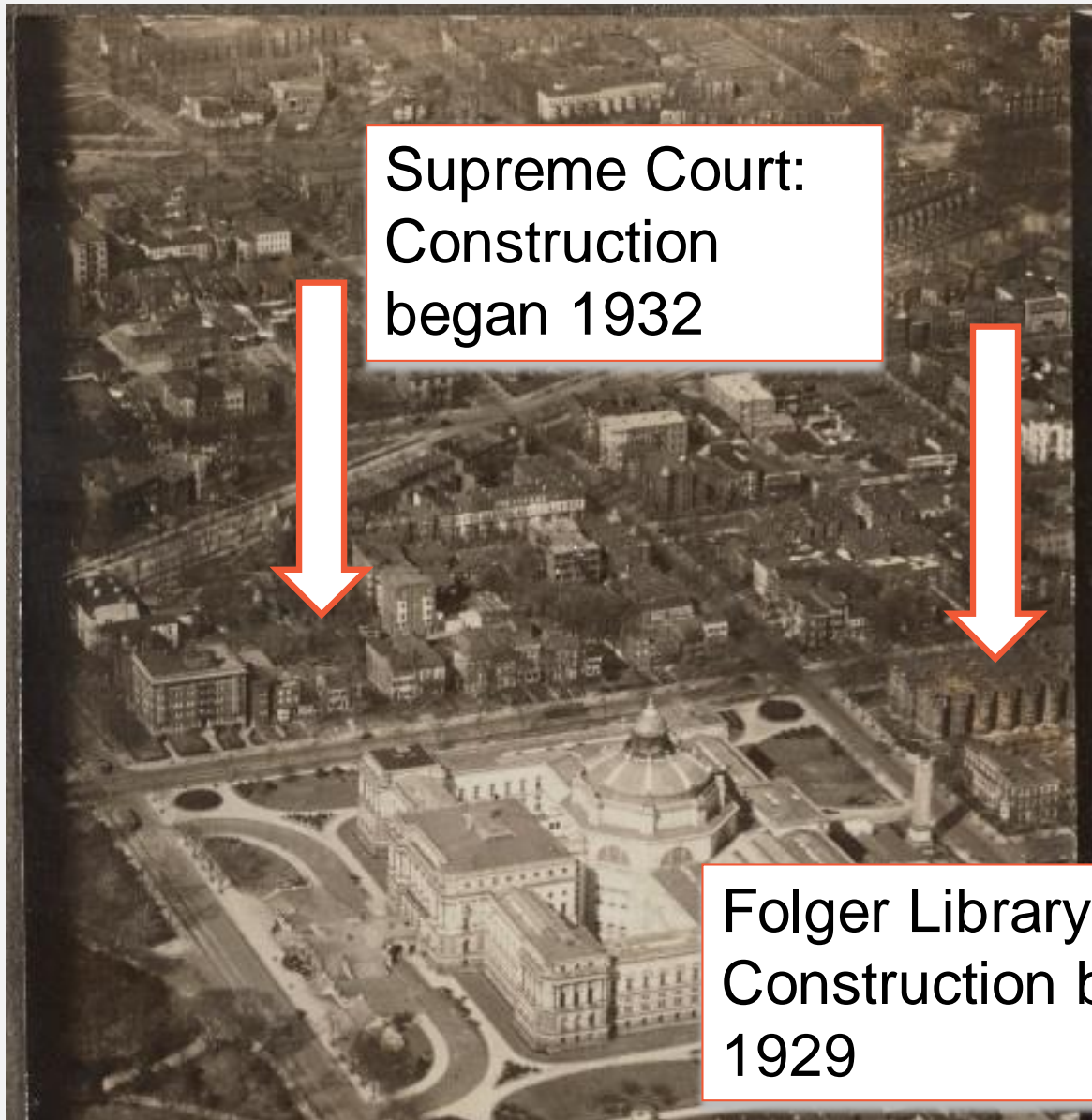
[Aerial view of Capitol Hill featuring the Madison, Jefferson and Adams Buildings of the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.] Photo by Carol M. Highsmith, 2007. <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/highsm.01902>



# What other buildings are missing?

U.S.  
Capitol  
is here





Supreme Court:  
Construction  
began 1932

Folger Library:  
Construction began  
1929



# Supreme Court + Folger Library



Supreme  
Court

Folger  
Library

[Aerial view from the south of the Library of Congress Thomas Jefferson Building, Washington, D.C.] Photo by Carol M. Highsmith, 2007. <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/highsm.01909>



# What other buildings are present?



# What other buildings are present?

Cannon House Office Building, completed in 1908



# Current date range, based on what is present and what is missing:

1908

Cannon  
House  
Office  
Building is  
completed



1929

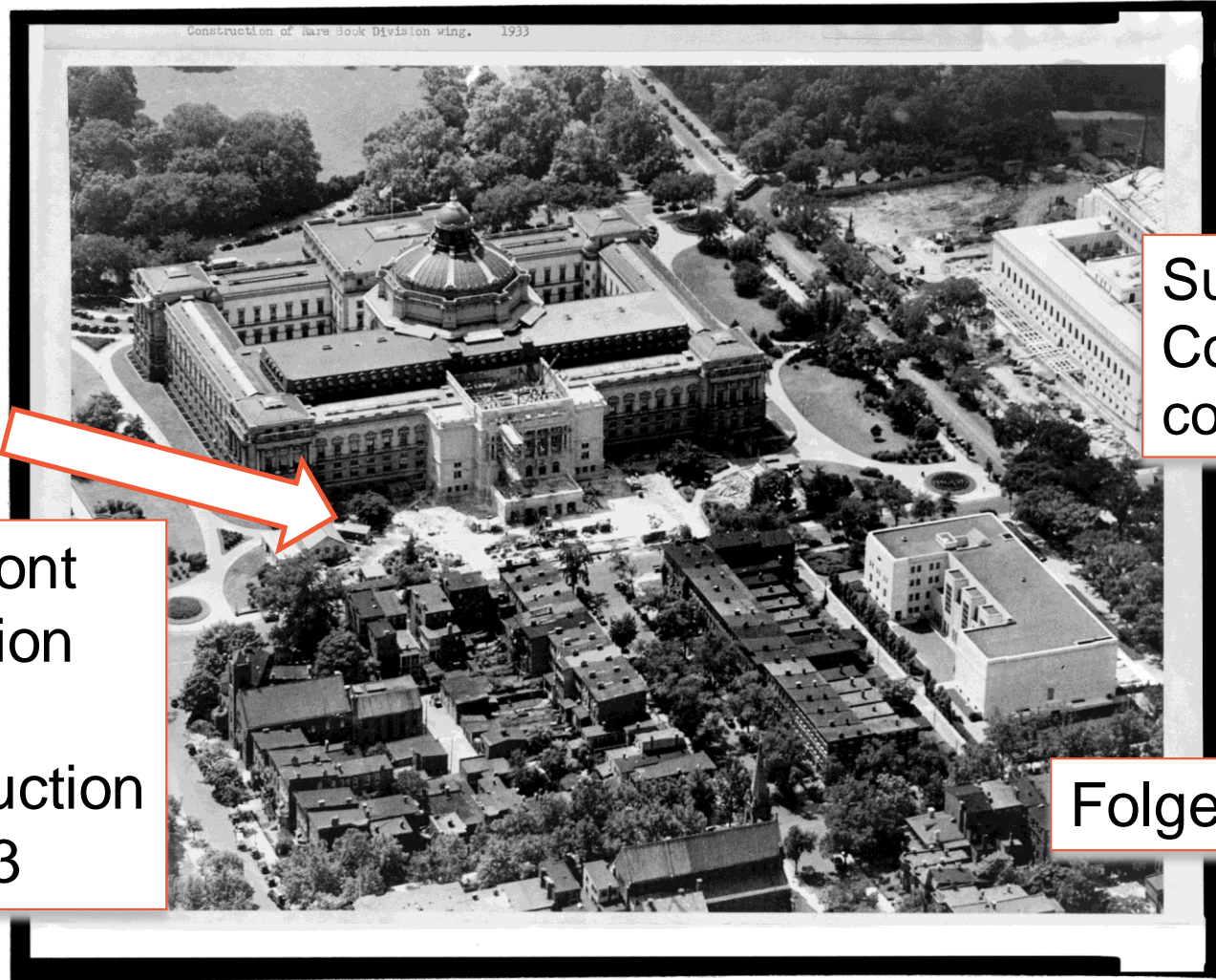
Folger  
Library  
construction  
begins

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# Look closely!





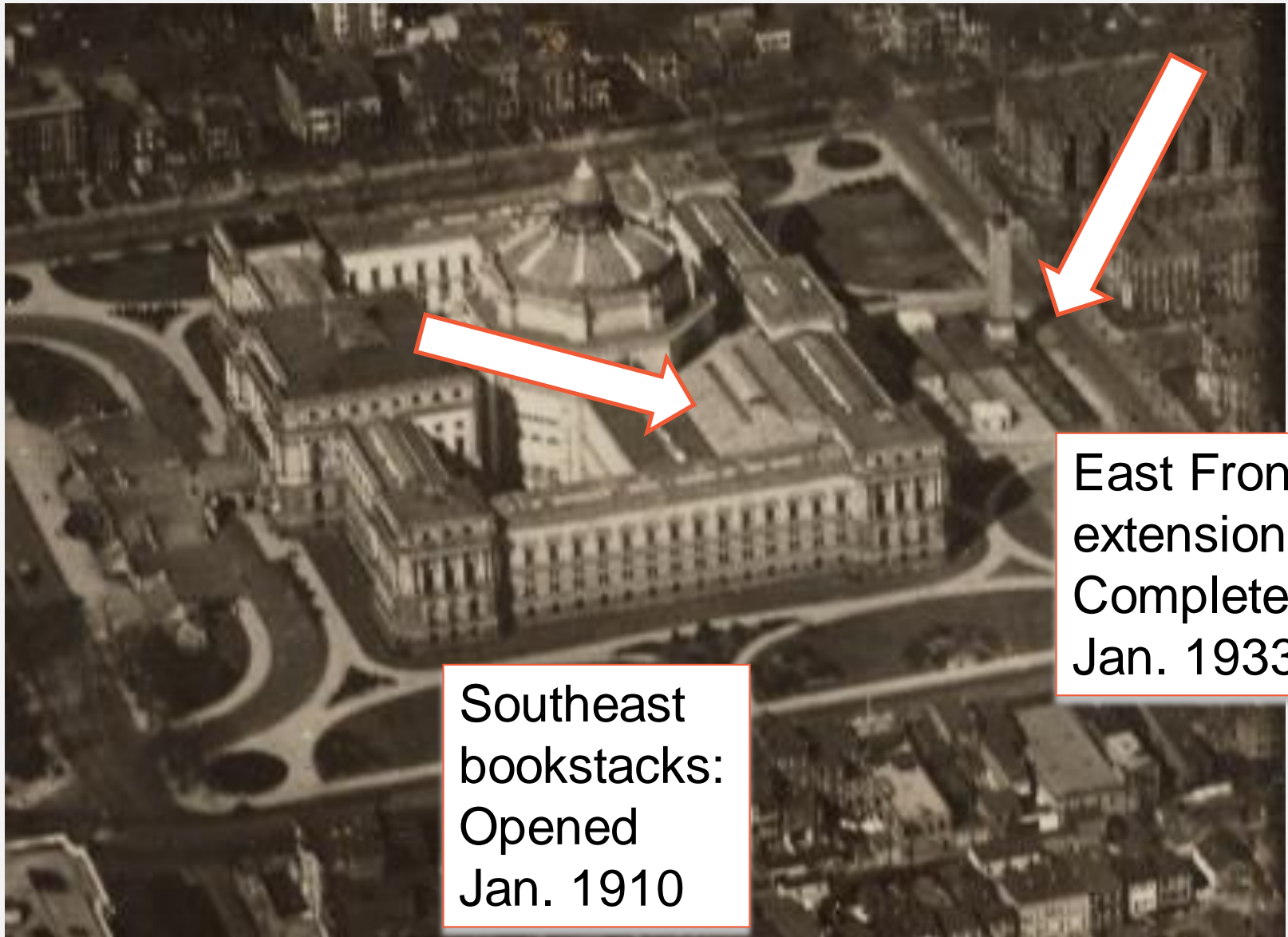


Supreme  
Court under  
construction

East front  
extension  
under  
construction  
in 1933

Folger Library

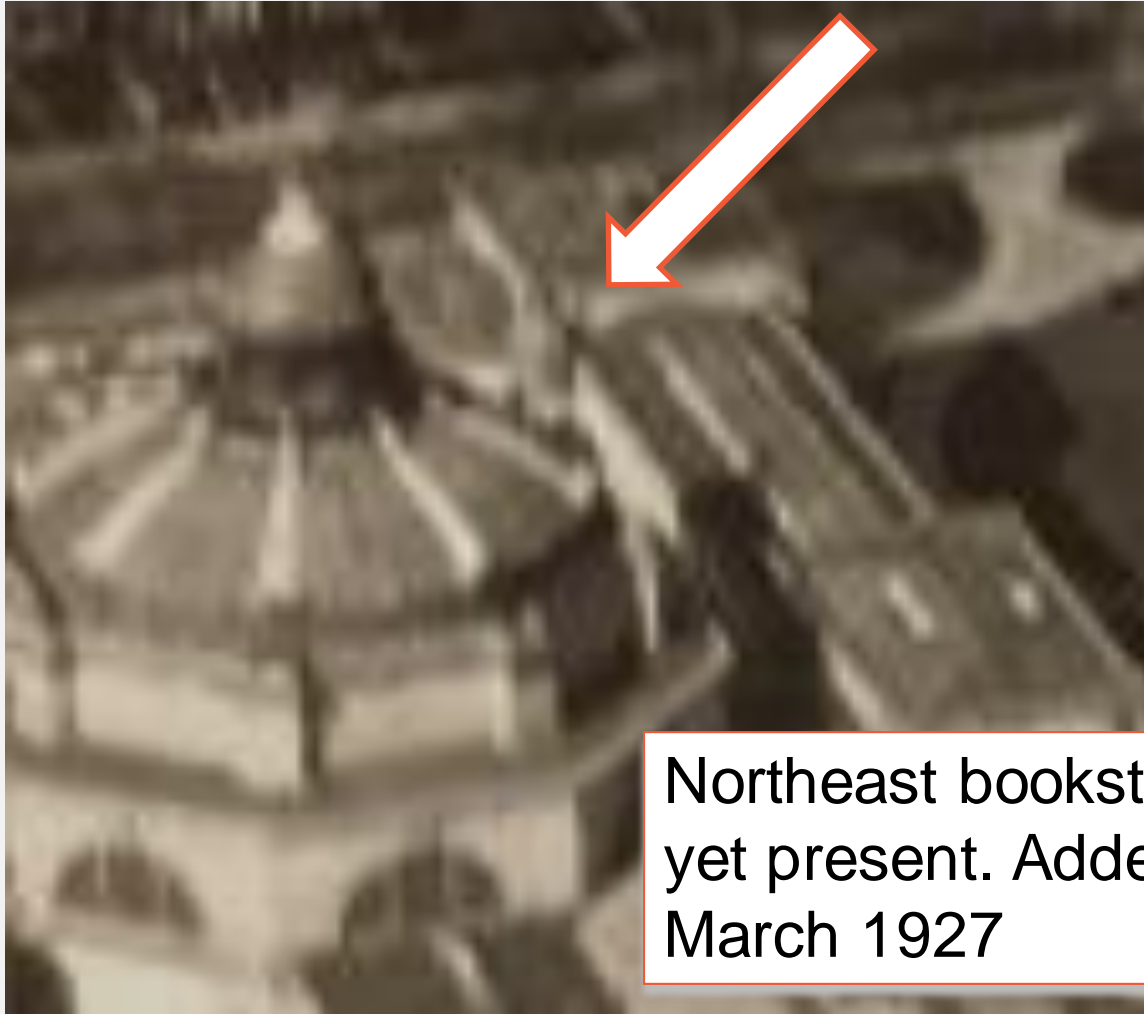
[Aerial view showing construction of the east front extension of the Library of Congress]. Photo, 1933. <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/cph.3b20862>



Southeast  
bookstacks:  
Opened  
Jan. 1910

East Front  
extension:  
Completed  
Jan. 1933

# Look even more closely!



Northeast bookstacks not yet present. Added in March 1927



# Date range, based on what is present and what is missing:

1910

Southeast  
bookstacks  
of Library  
of  
Congress  
are  
completed



1927

Northeast  
bookstacks  
of Library of  
Congress  
are not yet  
built.



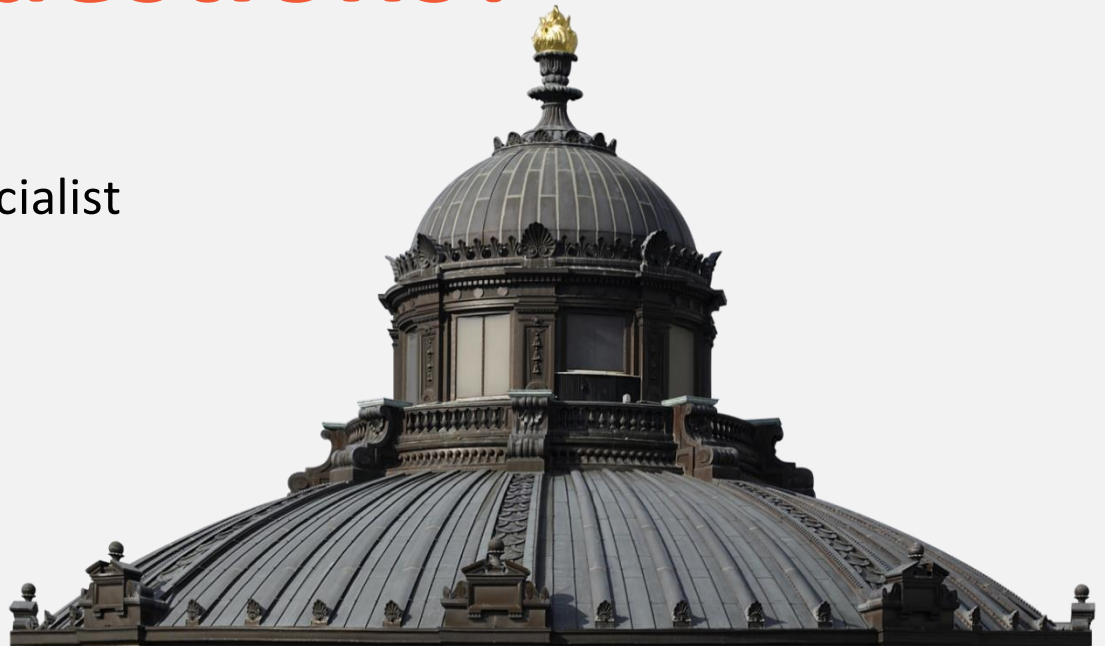
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March 25, 2021

# Thank you!

# Questions?

Kristi Finefield, Reference Specialist  
Prints & Photographs Division  
Library of Congress





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Prints & Photographs Online Catalog:

<https://loc.gov/pictures/>

Researcher's Toolbox:

<https://www.loc.gov/rr/print/resource/researchertool.html>

- Guides to dating photographs by clothing and hairstyles
- Guide to photographic processes
- Visual literacy exercises